



Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents' Association Inc.

Reg. No. A 0006803 W Est. 1880.

Faulder Watson Hall & Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker Street, Castlemaine.

• President: Russell Sheehan 54723285 • Secretary: Wilson Bunton 5472 3186 •

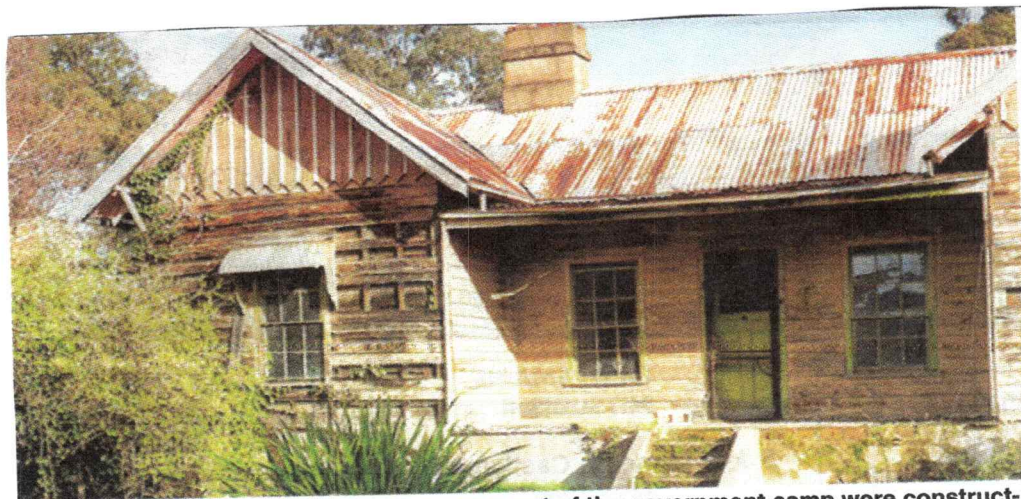
All welcome to meetings held on third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. Annual Subs: \$30.00.

W: www.castlemaine-pioneers.org E: castlemaine-pioneers@gmail.com

Newsletter – September 1st 2024. Wattle Day the first day of Spring.

The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine Spring already, only 116 days to Christmas and the day of reckoning, have we been good enough in the past year to warrant a nice present from Father Christmas? The new committee has started off enthusiastically getting down to business, tackling some outstanding issues. Watch this space, when there is something to report to members the President or Vice President will pass it on for publication in the newsletter. If you a member want some thing included, let me know at least in the first week of the month. I will exercise my right as editor to decide whether to print it or not, if I think it is contentious I will pass it on to the committee and let them decide. Oh dear, I am all of a twitter now that I only will be writing the newsletter, I haven't mentioned the weather. Windy is a word that readily springs to mind. Our garden is ankle deep in pink and white petals blown from the blossom trees all over the place by the wind. The daffodils, hyacinths, tulips etc look magnificent. (yes I'm skiting). Recently I caught up with George Showell. George is a long time member who has had health issues and is now in the aged care wing at the Maldon hospital. When we used to have a Show & Tell night George always had something unusual, and interesting, along with a good tall story. Also Melva Graham has moved, and is settling in nicely in a new environment, exchanging a large bush acreage in Barkers Creek for a nice unit with a nice garden in Castlemaine. Now the trip to Rochester Historical Museum. Date Friday Oct 4th. The museum opens at 9am – 12 noon. So far I have not been able to arrange a community bus, so I suggest we car pool (Barbara & I can take 2 passengers). Departure time 8am arrive at Roche 9-30am for coffee and then visit the museum 10 ish. Lunch at the pub, look at the shops and possibly a surprise visit on the way home. Back in Castlemaine by 4pm. I will ask for numbers at this months meeting. By the way we go back to normal meeting time this month with a **7-30 PM. START.** From the Around the Table

segment of the meeting (for the benefit of members who are not familiar with our meeting format, Around the Table is held just before the meeting is closed, giving members to raise any matter relating to the Pioneers) Len Peeler suggested that we build a relationship with one of the local schools computer department to further our knowledge, keep abreast of technology and to lay the ground for future members. A good idea in my opinion. In fact for many years students from both the North and South state schools came to classes in the telegraph station, to learn about Castlemaine's rich history. The window display will be changed soon and what a good thing it has been, both for the town and us. Trevor and Keith have put together a corker of a display on Transport. Keep your eye on the window. A very nice surprise awaits some of you at the next meeting. A good fairy has made some cushions and surreptitiously (hows that for a word?) placed them on some of our chairs. I mentioned at the last meeting in the inwards correspondence via email, that a gold medallion presented to a member of the Pioneers in 1905 a Mr. Edward Taylor, had been found in an Antique market in England some twenty years ago. Well folks it has returned home to the telegraph station. More about its interesting story next month. Now a story about how a waiter rather quaintly I think, referred to my age without insulting me. Recently Barbara and I were in Kyneton on a Saturday afternoon about 3-30 in the afternoon, and we wanted a coffee. All the coffee shops were closing and had turned their machines off. Eventually I found one that looked as if it was not closing, so we went in and asked could we get a coffee. The waiter said of course and showed us to a table and asked what sort of coffee we would like. As I gave the order I asked about a nice biscuit or slice to go with it. He looked me up and down and replied. *"for people of your vintage, I suggest creamy rice pudding topped with tinned cherries. How long is it since you last had a rice pudding?"* scrumptious!!!



The military officers' quarters which were part of the government camp were constructed in circa 1854.

The picture above shows a building that, historically is important to Castlemaine. It was a time capsule having stood there not lived in for more than a generation. There were moves to save this building, which may still be going on, I don't know. It was sold before auction minus the contents of the house. They had been bought privately. I knew the buyer and approached him to see if there was "stuff" we would like to add to our collection. Our charter specifically states "to collect preserve and promote Castlemaines history". When I saw the collection, some of it had already been sold. The ephemera I thought had to be saved. It covered a father and son. Their history of everyday life, work and social, I didn't hesitate negotiated a price and bought it on the spot. The family hailed from Scotland in 1874 settling in Fryerstown before moving to Castlemaine. Below are two love letters taken from the collection written early last century. No burning pages, just one name anonymity preserved a picture of gentler and more innocent times.

*My own dear loving pet.
Once more I have the pleasure of
writing to you, it is a pity we cannot meet
oftener but some day when the wind blows
the right way I shall see you, we will
have a donkey ride together, won't that
be fun, now my precious don't drown your
with tears as I cannot be with you oftener.
When Christmas comes I will bring you a
handsome present, be sure you don't tell
anyone what I propose, or I might forget
to bring it. O'h you little dumpy darling
I will give you such a squeeze you next
time. Don't forget to think of me and
dream sweet dreams of true loving hearts.
Now dearest love*

*Your ever loving Sweetheart
Your own True Love.*

*My sweetest and best,
since I left you in Collins Street
the other night. I have been unable
to sleep a for thinking about you
Your darling little bright eyes
like two stars winking at me in
the dark. When will you meet me
again dear, restore that heavenly calm
I always feel when with you. I feel so
happy that I am too full for words and
can't think of half the words I want to
to tell you. Directly you get this you
You must send me a line with an
appointment of some nice quiet spot
Near the G.P.O. that will be convenient
to both of us. I do hope it will be a fine
starry night. You remember what you
promised me at our last meeting, a kiss
for every star but non shall be brighter
than your dear eyes. Ever of Thee, Toby.*

The letters were written on two very small very fragile pieces of pink paper with a letter head. Bits and pieces of the collection will be published in future newsletters to keep you interested with an ulterior motive: the collection cost money and will need more to digitise, archive and store properly. If any of you would like to throw in a \$ or two, to help this project, feel free to do so, Barbara and I will start the ball rolling with \$50. Treasurer Gary will take your money with a smile and give you a receipt.

Below are a few small titbits from the above collection to whet your appetite.

I.G. 42. COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA. - POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

FOR QUICK SERVICE USE THE TELEGRAPH.
PLEASE TURN OVER.

RECEIVED TELEGRAM

The first line of this telegram contains the following particulars in the order named.

Office of Origin.	Words.	Time Lodged.	No.
1 MELBOURNE SUB		17 5-8PM	17

OFFICE DATE STAMP
CASTLEMAINE
Sent at **28 AUG**
Ch'nl No. **POST OFF**
By _____

Remarks. Sch. C.1237. - 11/1934.

To **MR J MORROW**
4 CAMP CRES
CASTLEMAINE

This message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.
The time received at this Office is shown at the end of the message.
The date stamp indicates the date both of lodgment and of reception unless otherwise shown after the particulars of time lodged.

SEND TRUNK DERRINALLUM RAILWAY STATION URGENT GOT JOB WRITING
JACK

ONE 37 : 0 : 195 BARKER STREET, CASTLEMAINE


12-5-1959

Les claires

KENNETH C. HAMMETT

WEDDING, PORTRAIT & GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Invoice 528				
550	9	10	9	
	5	2	0	
Mail				
	14	2	9	



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20-3-1959

M & Cash

Dr. to W. N. CUSACK

Batteries Charged & Repaired. All Cycle Accessories Stocked

ECLIPSE CHECK BOOK

1-13 black book		
1051a "Defiance"		
Battery	9	3
paid by Cash	3	8
	9	
20-3-1959		

140 years ago Special Meeting Feb 29th 1884
 a leap year. These minutes were written when we were young and keen. The secretary of the day wrote very detailed minutes giving us today a very clear, picture of people, places and events. Due to space restrictions I have omitted some procedural matters Ed. *Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The chairman Mr, Gaulton stated that the object of the meeting was to consider how the should hold the annual celebration. The committee at the last meeting made a recommendation to hold it at the Botanical Gardens, in the same way as 3 years ago. Mr. Thimbleby felt it should be held on a public holiday. Mr. Mitchell remarked, the proposition for observing it in March was on account of the time the Society was founded. An opinion was expressed that a public holiday was unsuitable as the sports on the Camp, would be more attractive than the Pioneers amusements. Mr. Thimbleby proposed that Wednesday 19th March be the day*

appointed. Mr. Graham seconded, the motion was carried. Mr. Thimbleby suggested that the celebrations be held at Malmsbury Resivior, where there were plenty of boats. This brought about questions of funds, the hour of departing, the mode of conveyance and the conveyance of families. Mr. Cooper thought that Lake Johanna too near to town, and for enjoyment if was best to go away to another place where there was the novelty of new scenery, moreover he said, if the railway was guaranteed 100 persons a special train could be procured. Mr. reid recommended an excursion to Sorrento. Sandhurst people have had two trips there, and by arrangement had the whole ferry to Sorrento and back for 17/6d. Mr. Graham was in favour of the celebration being held in the Botanical Gardens and this view was adopted.

It was at this point I think, some Pioneers started to think of Ferries, Sorrento, Queenscliff and the start of our future excursions. Ed.



**CASTLEMAINE
 "BACK TO"
 CELEBRATIONS**

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14th — 22nd

October 1977

**Castlemaine Pioneers
 and Old Residents' Association Inc.**

Next Monthly meeting

Thursday 19th September at **7-30pm**

